

acute bractea. Sepals equal, broadly oval or nearly orbicular, very concave. Petals lingulate, obtuse, slightly concave. Lip equal in length with the petals, divided to the middle into three obtuse segments, of which the middle one is the largest and broadest: the centre of the lip is clothed with a broad line of dense glandular down, reaching from the base almost to the apex. Column much shorter than the perianth, thick, fleshy, rhomboid. Anther hemispherical.

Plate XVII.* *A. Stelis foliosa*, nat. size; fig. 1, flower-bud; fig. 2, flower expanded, in its natural position; fig. 3, the same inverted and more expanded; fig. 4, column; fig. 5, petals; fig. 6, labellum; fig. 7, side view of the labellum; fig. 8, pollen masses, magnified.

XXXVIII.—*Catalogue of the Slender-tongued Saurians, with Descriptions of many new Genera and Species.* By JOHN EDWARD GRAY, Esq., F.R.S., Senior Assistant in the Zoological Department of the British Museum, &c.

[Continued from p. 293.]

DASIA. Toes 5—5, short, lower joint rather thick, with transverse plaits beneath, upper ones compressed and slightly arched; the index and middle finger equal, the next finger a little shorter, thumb large; ears closed over by the scales, not apparent (nor apparently fringed); muzzle short, rounded; tail tapering.

Dasia olivacea. Olive, back of the head-shield black; the back with 12 cross series of scales with a central white spot and a black spot on the sides; the band sometimes interrupted; scales 3 or 5 keeled, 3 or 5 toothed behind, the 2 lateral keels close together; hinder part of the sides, and sides of the tail with 2 broad white streaks; chin and beneath green, not spotted.

Prince of Wales's Island.

Mus. Chatham.

APRASIA. Head small, with 2 pairs of rather large frontal shields, which also cover the cheeks; a large 6-sided elongate vertebral, and a pair of small superciliary, shields; labial shields rather larger, few; eyes large, round, eyelids rudimentary, pupil round; nostrils small, in the suture between the top of the first labial and anterior frontal plate; muzzle rounded, rather produced. Ears none; body cylindrical elongate, covered with uniform hexangular smooth scales;

* This plate will form part of the SUPPLEMENT.

tail as long as the body, rather tapering, covered with scales like the body, those on the under side being rather the largest.

Aprasia pulchella. Pale olive; head brown lined; scales pale edged, those of the back and sides with 1 or 3 oblong longitudinal spots forming interrupted lines; beneath pale greyish, scales darker edged; tail brown lined and beneath whitish. Length of body $2\frac{3}{4}$, of tail $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches. The scales of the occiput are rather larger than the rest, and the front of the vent is covered with scales like the rest of the body.

New Holland.

Brit. Mus.

HERINIA. Ears none; otherwise like *Tiliqua*, toes 5—5; scales smooth, thick.

Herinia capensis. Pale olive; back darker varied, with a silvery streak on each side; sides dark brown; beneath silvery white.

Cape of Good Hope.

*** *Muzzle rounded; body subcylindrical, elongate; limbs 4, far apart.*

RIOPA, Gray. Toes 5—5, unequal; ears distinct; head shields normal; front toes much longer, the two inner more slender than the rest.

Riopa punctata, Seba, ii. t. 12. f. 16. *Seps scincoides*, Cuv. *Lygosoma punctata*, Gray, *Anim. Kingd.* *Scincus Cuvieri*, Cocteau.

Bengal.

Brit. Mus.

Riopa Ruppellii, *Seps scincoides*, Mus. Francfort, not Cuv. Pale olive, silvery, very finely punctuated, with a whitish streak on each side, edged beneath with a dark line; beneath whitish.

Arabia Petrea?

Mus. Francfort.

Riopa Brougainvillii, *Scincus Brougainvillii*, Cocteau MSS. Bronze olive; back with two or four interrupted series of black spots with a broad dark brown stripe from the eyes over the legs on each side; belly and lower parts of the sides pale and black spotted; tail brown, sides dark varied, the front toes rather longer than in the former.

New Holland.

LYGOSOMA, Gray. Toes 5—5; ears distinct; head shields ——?

Lygosoma abdominalis, *Lacerta abdominalis*, Thunb. *L. serpens*, Gray, *Zool. Journ.* not *Synon.*

India, Java.

Brit. Mus.

Lygosoma australis, n. s. Back dark golden brown, darker varied, with a broad pale golden streak down each side; sides grey, closely black dotted.

New Holland.

Mus. Chatham.

CHIAMELA, n. g. Toes 4—4; ears very small? or none? head like

Tiliqua, but with the vertebral shields placed one before the other, and no anterior occipital one.

Chiamela lineata. Golden brown, with longitudinal black lines, one placed in the centre of each series of scales; head brown; shields pale-edged.

India.

Brit. Mus.

Chiamela Duvaucellii, Scincus Duvaucellii, *Cocteau*? Pale with a series of minute black specks; sides dark, white-spotted.

N. Holland, King George's Sound. Mus. Paris.

Exactly like *Scincus Duvaucellii* in colour and form, but toes 4—4 thicker, shorter and of different proportional length.

TETRADACTYLUS, Cuv. Toes 4—4; ears none; head with one rostral, one anterior, and one posterior frontal, separated by two small shields; two vertebral, three occipital and four or five superciliary shields.

Tetradactylus decresiensis, Cuv. Pale brown, with three dark brown dorsal streaks, the central streak broadest and interrupted.

N. Holland.

Mus. Paris.

RISTELLA. Toes 4—5, short; ears distinct; head shields ——?

Ristella Rurkii. Crown and back pale brown, shining; scales 6-rowed, each of four central rows with a blackish central spot, forming four longitudinal series of spots; sides white-dotted; chin and belly white.

North India, Dr. Rurk.

Mus. Chatham.

HAGRIA. Toes 5—4, rudimentary, nearly equal, compressed, clawed; head shielded; ears small, dot-like; scales smooth, equal, with white netted lines.

Hagria Vosmaerii, Scincus Vosmaerii, *Cocteau*. Brown, minutely black dotted, beneath pale.

Java.

Mus. Paris.

TRIDACTYLUS, Cuv. Toes 3—3; ears ——? head shields ——?

Tridactylus decresiensis, Cuv. Pale brown with dark longitudinal lines, beneath whitish, brown netted.

New Holland.

Mus. Paris.

SEPS, Merr. *Zygnis*, Fitz. Toes 3—3; ears distinct, deep; head shields like *Tiliqua*, but rostral scales longer; nasals very small, and no anterior occipital shield.

Seps tridactylus, Rapp. *Seps Chalcidica*, *Risso*.

Seps vittata, Leuckart, Breves, 1818.

Seps multivirgatus, Boie.

Mus. Leyden.

SIAPHOS, Gray. *Perameles*, Wiegman. Toes 3—3; ears none; eyelid distinct; head shields like *Tiliqua*, but without any posterior

frontal shields, the anterior frontal being large and placed in front of the vertebral, and the anterior occipital plates rather large.

Siaphos æqualis, Gray, Griff. A. K. *Peromeles æqualis*, Wieg. *Seps æqualis*, Gray, *Ann. Phil.* 1828.

Hab. — ?

Brit. Mus.

**** *Muzzle rounded ; body subcylindrical ; legs two, posterior, placed on the side of the vent ending in one or two acute toes.*

OPHIODES, Wagler. Feet tapering, acute, undivided ; ears none ; eyelid distinct.

Ophiodes striatus, *Pygopus striatus*, *Spix. Braz.* *Seps fragilis*, *Raddi.* *Pseudopus Olfersii*, *Licht.* Mus. Paris.

Jun.—*Pygopus Caryococca*, *Spix. Braz.*

Brazils.

Brit. Mus.

***** *Muzzle rounded ; body subcylindrical ; legs none.*

ANGUIS. Ears hid ; eyelids distinct.

A. fragilis, Linn.

Brit. Mus.

SIGUANA, Gray. *Otophis*, Fitz. ? Ears exposed.

Siguana Ottonis, Gray, Griff. *Anim. Kingd.* ; *Otoph. Eryx*, *Fitz. ?* Europe. Mus. Breslau.

STENOSTOMA, Fitz. Ears none ? eyelids none.

Stenostoma — ?

Tortrix melanostrata from Russel, *Ind. Rept. i.* 148. appears to form a new genus of this division.

DORFIA. Ears hid ; head with three vertebral plates, the frontal pair between the small first vertebral and the larger second one, the third between the oblique occipital ones ; eyebrows and cheeks covered with small scales ; ventral scales not larger than the rest.

Dorfia punctata. Crown and back white ; nape with a central black streak ending in a line of black spots ; cheek, sides, and beneath black ; lower lip white-dotted.

Cape of Good Hope.

Mus. Chatham.

GYMNOPTHALMIDÆ. Tongue contractile, head shielded, rostral shields small rounded ; eyelid none ; back, belly, and sides covered with smooth uniform imbricate scales ; vent transverse linear, with scales in front.

MICROLEPIS, n. g. Toes 5—5 ; ears large ; head depressed ; scales moderately grooved ; head with five vertebral plates.

Microlepis undulata. *Tiliqua microlepis*, Gray, *Griff. Anim. Kingd.*

71. Silvery, back with brown wavy bands.

Hab. — ?

Brit. Mus.

ABLEPHARUS. Toes 5—5 ; ears distinct ; front of vent shielded ;

scales six-sided, divided by a central transverse white line, with six or eight longitudinal lines on each side.

A. panonicus, Fitz. Berol. Mag. 1824. t. 14.

A. cupreus, n. s. Golden green, brown mottled, with a narrow pale green sinuous streak on sides of the back.

Hab. — ? Brit. Mus.

GYMNOPHTHALMUS. Toes 4—5, "Wagler." Ears—?

G. lineata, Lacerta lineata and L. 4-lineata, Gmel. G. 4-lineata, Newwied, Braz.

Hab. — ? Mus. Berlin.

CRYPTOBLEPHARUS, Wiegmann. *Petia*, MSS. Gray. Toes 5—5; ears — ? front of vent scaly; scales — ?

Crypt. Leschenaultii, Wiegmann. Ablepharus Leschenaultii, Cocteau Mag. Zool. t. 1.

Crypt. pæcilopleurus, Wiegmann, Act. Acad. Nat. Cur. xvii. t. 18. f. 1.

LERISTA, Bell. Toes 2—3; ears none.

Lerista lineata, Bell, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1. 99.

Australasia. Mus. Bell.

RHODONA (*Rhodonidæ*). Rostral plate rather produced, large depressed, with a rather sharp edge; feet rudimentary; nostrils superior in the centre of an oblique triangular scale, occupying the back edge of the rostral plate; vertebral plates three, one behind the other, the middle largest, hinder triangular; superciliary plates moderate; ears very small, nearly hid? eyes small, with only rudimentary eyelids. Body elongate, subcylindrical, covered with uniform small imbricate scales; feet four, far apart, the front ones rudimentary, short, small, conical, undivided, ending in a simple claw, hinder small, weak, with a distinct knee, and ending in two very unequal clawed toes; tail elongate, cylindrical, tapering.

Rhodona punctata. Grey brown, back with rows of small black spots, those of the middle of the back and tail largest; labial scales brown-edged. Body four, tail three inches. Eyes small.

New Holland.

The genus *Rhodona* appears to form a distinct family, (characterized by the form of the rostral shield, the position of the nostrils, and the number of the vertebral shields,) which I propose to call *Rhodonidæ*. Probably the genus *Lerista* of Bell may belong to the same group, but the form and number of the head shields of that genus has not been described.

SORIDIA, Gray (*Rhodonidæ*?). Head small, rostral plate rather pro-

duced, large, with a rather sharp edge, lower one similar, but smaller; nostrils subsuperior in the centre of an oblique triangular nasal scale occupying the under edge of the rostral; vertebral plates three, one behind the other, the middle one largest, the hinder triangular; eyes small with only rudimentary eyelids; ears none. Body elongate, subcylindrical, covered with uniform smooth imbricate scales; feet two, rudimentary, simple, tapering, ending in a single claw placed on each side of the two præanal shields; tail elongate, cylindrical, tapering, with a central series of similar scales beneath.

Soridia lineata. Silvery, with distant rows of minute black specks and a broad black streak down each side. Length of body $1\frac{1}{2}$; of tail $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

Hab. Australasia.

ACONTIADÆ. Head shielded, rostral shield large, cup-shaped, inclosing the end of the muzzle; nostril dot-like in the middle of the sides of the rostral shield, with a posterior groove to its hinder edge; chin shield like the rostral, but smaller. Body subcylindrical, covered with smooth imbricate scales; feet rudimentary, sometimes wanting; tongue short, like the *Scincidæ*; scales with a transverse central line, and close parallel longitudinal white internal lines.

NESSIA, n. g. Body cylindrical, head shielded; ears distinct, dot-like; feet very short, rudimentary, divided into three very short subequal toes; claws sharp, central rather the longest; eyes distinct; eyelids —? Tail thick, elongate, cylindrical.

Nessia Burtonii. Pale brown, centre of scales darker, beneath pale.

Hab. —?

Mus. Chatham.

Named after Dr. Burton of Chatham.

EVESIA, n. g. Head shielded, with three vertebral shields, two first large and transverse, four-sided, 3rd triangular, and several oblique occipital shields, loreal shield long; body and tail subcylindrical, covered with equal smooth six-sided scales; feet four, simple, thin, weak, rudimentary, far apart, covered with scales, end undivided, ragged.

Evesia monodactylus, Bell. Pale brown, scales smooth, dark edged; tail darker.

Hab. —?

Mus. Bell.

BIPES. Body subcylindrical; legs two, posterior, on the sides of the vent, feet unequally 2-lobed; ears none.

Bipes anguineus, Merrem. *Anguis bipes*, Linn. *Seba*, i. t. 86. f. 3.

Lacerta bipes, Gmelin. *Seps lineata*, Harlan, *Journal Acad. Philad.* iv. t. 18. f. 2.

Cape of Good Hope. Brit. Mus.

Bipes Gronovii. *Pygodactylus Gronovii*. Mus. Leyden.

ACONTIAS. Body cylindrical, apodal; eyes distinct, oblong, large, surrounded with a series of scales; scales with parallel white longitudinal internal lines, which are divided into two series by a central cross line (best seen in the white scales).

Acontias meleagris. White with the hinder edges of the upper scales dark brown.

Cape of Good Hope. Mus. Chatham.

Var. Above brown, beneath white.

Cape of Good Hope. Mus. Chatham.

XXXIX.—*On the Breeding of the Woodcock* (*Scolopax rusticola*, Linn.), in Ireland. By WM. THOMPSON, Esq., Vice-President of the Natural History Society of Belfast.

IN the 1st volume of the 'Annals of Natural History,' (p. 158.) I alluded to the circumstance of woodcocks having bred within the last few years in some of the northern, central, and southern counties; at the same time stating it to be my intention to reserve a detailed notice of the fact, until the species should in due order come to be treated of in my intended series of papers on the birds of Ireland. The subject being however interesting in more than a mere ornithological point of view, it is considered better now to publish my notes upon it, leaving the general history of the bird, independently of this part of its œconomy, for the place just mentioned.

Of the occasional breeding of the woodcock in England, instances have been recorded in the chief works on ornithology published in that country within the last seventy years. Thus Pennant informs us, that "in Case-wood, near Tunbridge, a few breed almost annually; the young having been shot there in the beginning of August*." He adds, "I do not recollect that any have been discovered to have bred in North Britain," p. 367. Latham states that "a brace of them were shot in Chellenden Wood by the gamekeeper to Horace Mann, Esq.,

* Brit. Zool. vol. ii. p. 366. ed. 1776.